



Course: Foundations of Government (S1) / Civics (S2)

Teacher: Mr. Buder

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On a Great Path Attributes:

“Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe”



GPA/MCC	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
MCC/GPA Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use appropriate language &amp; tone</li> <li>Active listening.</li> <li>Say Please &amp; Thank you</li> <li>Recognize &amp; Respect the opinions, practices or decisions of others even if different from your own</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Come prepared for class</li> <li>Complete all assignments</li> <li>Follow teacher instructions</li> <li>Be on time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands &amp; feet to yourself</li> <li>Stay in teacher assigned seat</li> <li>Keep Food or Drinks in your locker</li> <li>Walk in to class</li> </ul>

**Course Description / Objective:**

Welcome to Foundations of Government! We will be going on an educational journey that will prepare you with the skills needed to be successful academically and socially through the implementation of the GPA attributes; respect, responsibility, and safety. The foundation of this course is based on acquiring, developing, and applying our knowledge of civics into our daily lives and our worldview. Topics will include political philosophy, political theory, citizenship, government, colonial government, the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the branches of government. Students will be able to explore local and global issues, including causes, consequences, and possible solutions. Independent work, outside readings, class discussions and various forms of assessment will be used in each unit. My goal is to both provide the groundwork for Civics in the spring 2020 semester and to improve your writing and critical thinking skills. Ultimately, I would like to see that all of you leave this course responsible and concerned world citizens that make ethical and rational decisions that will positively affect our country and our world. If you are interested in any specific topics and events and would like to include them in our course this year, please reach out to me.

**Official Office Hours:** Normal office hours are 2:50 – 3:35 in GP142 on Mondays. Appointments can be made by student or parent requests pending teacher availability.

**PLEASE contact me if you have any questions, problems, or concerns.**

**Room Assignment:** All Foundations of Government and Civics classes are located in GP142

**Course Schedule**

A-Day (Monday & Wednesday)	B-Day (Tuesday & Thursday)	Friday (A&B Day)
Senior Capstone 1A Foundations of Government/Civics 2A Planning Period 3A Foundations of Government/Civics 4A Foundations of Government/Civics Senior Capstone	Senior Capstone/Flex Support 1A Planning Period 2A Foundations of Government/Civics H 3A Block Foundations of Government/Civics 4A Block Contemporary Issues Senior Capstone/Flex Support	1 <sup>st</sup> Block (1A) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (2A) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (3A) 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (4A) 5 <sup>th</sup> Block (1B) 6 <sup>th</sup> Block (2B) 7 <sup>th</sup> Block (3B) 8 <sup>th</sup> Block (4B) Clubs



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**Materials and Organization: (EVERY CLASS)**

Notebook	Writing Utensil	Folder	Agenda	Homework/Class Assignments
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**Grading:** The grade you *earn* will be based on a point system. Each assignment will be worth a certain amount of points. (Example, homework assignments will generally be worth 10 points while a unit exam is worth 100 points.)

**SEMESTER COURSE**

The final grade for a **semester course** is determined as follows:

- 40% Marking Period 1
- 40% Marking Period 2
- 20% Final Exam
- 100% Final Grade

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	I
4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0	0
100-97	96-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-50*	I

**Late Work and Make-Ups:** If you are absent, please see me the day you return before class begins to get the materials you missed. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET WORK MISSED WHILE YOU ARE ABSENT.** The work that was due on the day you were absent is due on the day you return. Students who pass homework assignments/projects late will receive 50% credit the first week and 0% if turned in after a week. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING HOMEWORK AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS FOR ANTICIPATED PLANNED LEAVES OF ABSENCE & expected to turn them into your teacher on the first day of your return to school, as the same late work & make up policy applies. See student handbook for more details.**

**Assessments:** Will consist of informal and formal assessments, including but not limited to quizzes, research/community-based projects, group projects and other in class or homework assignments.

**Make-Up Quiz/Exam/Homework/Project Policy:** All assessments, exams or quizzes will be taken in the content course classroom during the scheduled block unless otherwise indicated in the students' IEP or 504 plan. If you are absent on the day of an exam or assignment, it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up exam, which must be taken with your Course Teacher or with GPA staff supervision. **See student handbook for more details.**

**Student-Led Conferences:** Great Path Academy students are required to showcase their schoolwork and discuss educational goals with their families through Student-Led Conferences. This is an extremely positive opportunity for students to emphasize their strengths, acknowledge their areas for improvement with parents/guardians in attendance, and plan for their next steps. Students will need **at least 3-4 items to showcase from each class.** As this is a major part of every child's capstone grade, we strongly encourage families to be a positive part of this conferencing process.

**Academic Honesty:** Complete ALL assignments on your own unless instructed otherwise. Copying, cheating or plagiarizing does not meet GPA Expectations. If you copy, or cheat from another student or you allow another student to copy your work, BOTH parties are guilty of cheating and will be referred to administration



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for appropriate consequences. Please refer to GPA's Academic Honesty Policy for additional information. See **student handbook for more details.**

**Attendance and Tardy Policy:** Please refer to GPA's & HBOE Attendance Policy per CT Statutes within your student handbook. If you know you will be missing classes in advance, please provide written notification or email in advance so that work assignments can be gathered for you.

**See student handbook for more details.** Please be in class for 7:25, as you must be inside the classroom for the bell at 7:30 and ready for start of class.

**School-wide Tardy Policy is as follows:**

**1st offense = Warning (Teacher check-in with student)**

**2nd offense = Teacher makes a Parent phone call**

**3rd offense = Teacher makes a Parent call + teacher consequence is assigned (ex. lunch detention/afterschool)**

**4th offense = Office Discipline Referral with Parent Contact Documentation and progressive discipline (loss of privileges)**

**Uniform Policy: Per Hartford Public Schools attire policy:** White or Blue Buttoned down Oxford or White or Blue Polo with GPA Logo with a black cardigan sweater or sweater vest with GPA logo. Black or khaki uniform full length pants, closed shoes or sneakers and a belt are also required. Optional GPA Logo Fleece or Sweater. North Face Fleece or any outerwear are **NOT ALLOWED** during the school day. **See student handbook for more details.**

**Cell Phone/Electronic Policy: Cell phones & earbuds can ONLY be used during the students assigned lunch waves in the cafeteria & if student is listening to music or watching a video earbuds/headphones must be worn.** While in any of the GPA classrooms, main office, Career Center, Nurses office, any other GPA office, hallway &/or the gym; **ALL** cell phones, earbuds/headphones or other electronic device **MUST BE OFF** and **AWAY** during the school day. **Each classroom is equipped with a cell phone/electronics holder. Students may select to hold their device in the holder for the class period. During this time, the devices cannot be used. Items are not to be seen or heard and CANNOT be plugged into any classroom outlet or charging from any computers or charging devise during school hours 7:30 – 2:40 if seen or heard they will be confiscated by your teachers, any adult staff member, Behavior Technician or Administration. See student handbook for more details. (If a parent needs to contact a student during the school day, they should call the main office at 860-512-3700).** Students who have electronics **visible** or **heard** will have them confiscated, labeled, and if this is a referable offence, the teacher will complete a referral and will turn the cellphone in to Administration and appropriate disciplinary action will be followed per BOE policy. iPods, cell phones, or other electronic equipment must be off and away in the academic section of the school. Students may use them during their assigned lunch period in the cafeteria.

**School-wide Cell Phone/Electronic Policy is as follows:**

**1st offense = Item is confiscated and the student will receive it back at the end of the day with a parent contact and a warning**

**2nd offense = Item is confiscated and parents must come into the building to retrieve confiscated materials. When the parent comes to the school to retrieve the material, both student and parent will review school and district policy with the Administration**

**3rd offense = Results in the item being confiscated until the end of the semester**



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**\*Please see student handbook for additional GPA & HPS district policies\***

**Website:** <http://www.manchestercc.edu/great-path-academy/>

**2019-2020 Course Benchmarks**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Political Philosophers and Theory</b></li> <li>• <b>Americans, Citizenship, and Governments</b></li> <li>• <b>Forms of Government</b></li> <li>• <b>The American Colonies and their Government</b></li> <li>• <b>Disagreements with Great Britain</b></li> <li>• <b>The Constitution</b></li> <li>• <b>The Structure of the Constitution</b></li> <li>• <b>The Bill of Rights</b></li> <li>• <b>First Amendment</b></li> <li>• <b>Influence of Social Change on Government</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Becoming a Citizen</b></li> <li>• <b>Duties and Responsibilities of American Citizens</b></li> <li>• <b>Influences on American Colonial Government</b></li> <li>• <b>Settlement, Culture, and Government of the Colonies</b></li> <li>• <b>The Country’s first Government</b></li> <li>• <b>Principles of the Constitution</b></li> <li>• <b>Other Bill of Rights Protections</b></li> <li>• <b>Furthering Civil Liberties</b></li> <li>• <b>The Civil Rights Movement</b></li> </ul>
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**\*Please Note\*** Course schedule/timeline/topic is subject to change throughout the school year.

**Parents & Guardians:** It is my goal & responsibility to ensure that all students succeed in my course of studies. Remember that High School paves the path towards personal and professional success and will be a new and challenging experience for you and your child. However, this is an educational partnership between parents, students and myself as their teacher. I welcome working cooperatively with you and your child in order to make sure this occurs. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 860-512-3742 or via email at [budec001@hartfordschools.org](mailto:budec001@hartfordschools.org).

Please see next page for Course Syllabus acknowledgement and agreement.



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**Students, this is your first HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT. (20pts)**  
**Acknowledgement & Agreement Course Syllabus for**  
**Foundations of Government Assigned Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**You and your parent/guardian must read and discuss this Course Syllabus together.**  
**I have read, discussed, understand and agree to this Course Syllabus, GPA's expectations,**  
**policies & procedures as mandated by Hartford Public Schools.**

- I understand that the GPA attributes & expectations apply to me and everyone in class and are meant to ensure a Respectful, Responsible & Safe learning environment for everyone.
- I understand that I have chosen to earn my high school diploma in a middle college high school on the MCC college campus and must adhere to GPA's Attributes, HPS code of conduct and MCC Guiding Principles.
- I understand that by following these rules, it will help me & others obtain a positive learning experience at GPA.
- I understand that my course grade will be based in part on how well I follow the GPA attributes of Respect, Responsibility and Safety including the MCC Guiding Principles
- I understand that it is my responsibility to be in full uniform daily, arrive to class on time, stay in class & complete all my assignments on time to earn my course grade in order to meet the graduation credit requirements to obtain my high school diploma
- I also understand that any incentive activity, incentive field trip, dances or afterschool events are earned privileges that will be revoked based on violations of GPA policies and procedures and/or HPS district code of conduct (ODR)

**Please sign below and return on the next class day.**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Contact information: Phone# \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

